



Florida House of Representatives

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FLORIDA POISED TO JOIN ENERGY PRODUCING STATES

~State ready to realize financial, economic, environmental benefits from own resources~

The Florida House of Representatives today passed House Bill (HB) 1219 which allows Florida to take its place among the other energy producing states in realizing the financial, economic and environmental benefits derived from its own resources.

A bi-partisan majority of House members recognize that to achieve the goal of energy self-sufficiency, Florida needs more energy developed right here in Florida. Americans are too dependent on foreign sources of energy, often from countries that are hostile to America and American interests. Continued dependence on foreign oil threatens both our national and economic security and that is unacceptable. According to experts, Florida may have from 3 billion to 20 billion barrels of untapped energy in its waters.

With a state-based royalty rate of 18.75%, Florida could collect \$1.5 billion or more, per year, for at least 20 years. While other states like Texas use royalties for funding education and other programs, the Sunshine State's prohibition prevents any financial benefit to Floridians. Florida is the only Gulf Coast state not benefiting from its available energy resources.

HB 1219 does not trigger automatic drilling in Florida's waters. The Governor and Cabinet acting as the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund must approve every application for exploration. Each application carries a non-refundable fee of \$1 million. Even if an application is denied or oil or natural gas is not found, Florida keeps the money.

Tens of thousands of Floridians could benefit from direct and indirect employment created by removing the ban on exploration and production. Energy exploration off Florida's coast could potentially create more than 16,000 jobs with an average salary of \$76,500. These are high paying jobs that we need in Florida. Such an infusion of jobs and economic activity grows to 34,000 jobs initially and \$6.4 billion a year generating the jobs and revenue Florida needs to jump start the economy.

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